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cont*
- a) an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - b) a naturally-occurring amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - c) a biologically-active fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and
 - d) an immunogenic fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

19. (New) An isolated polypeptide of claim 18, having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

20. (New) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 18.

21. (New) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 19.

22. (New) An isolated polynucleotide of claim 21, having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

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23. (New) An expression vector comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 20.

24. (New) A host cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 23.

25. (New) A method for producing a polypeptide of claim 18, the method comprising:

- a) culturing a host cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said host cell is transformed with an expression vector, and said expression vector comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 18, and
- b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

26. (New) A method of claim 25, wherein the polypeptide has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

27. (New) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
- b) a naturally-occurring polynucleotide sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
- c) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to a),
- d) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to b) and
- e) a ribonucleotide equivalent of a)-d).

28. (New) An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleic acids of claim 27.

29. (New) A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 27, the method comprising:

- a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide or fragments thereof, and
- b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

30. (New) A method of claim 29, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

31. (New) A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 27, the method comprising:

- a) amplifying said target polynucleotide or fragment thereof using polymerase chain

reaction amplification, and

- b) detecting the presence or absence of said amplified target polynucleotide or fragment thereof, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

32. (New) An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 18.

33. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a polypeptide of claim 18 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

34. (New) A pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the polypeptide has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

35. (New) A method for treating a disorder which is associated with decreased expression of the polypeptide of claim 18 comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition comprising said polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

36. (New) A purified agonist which specifically binds to and modulates the activity of the polypeptide of claim 18.

37. (New) A purified antagonist which specifically binds to and inhibits the activity of the polypeptide of claim 18.

38. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antagonist of claim 37 in conjunction with a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

39. (New) A method for treating a disorder which is associated with increased expression of the polypeptide of claim 18 comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment an